

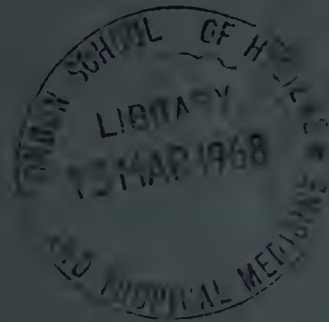
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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

1961



POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1961

together with

THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

31st August, 1962

To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

In the following pages I present my report for the year 1961 which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 1/62 of the Ministry of Health.

There are no startling changes in the pattern of the statistics shown on Pages 5 to 9 although members will be surprised, as I was, that the Registrar General should estimate the population for Mid 1961 at a figure below that for the previous year. It is difficult to understand this particularly in view of the fact that the birth-rate (unadjusted) remained high and the death-rate (unadjusted) was the lowest for very many years and that there was a substantial increase in the number of inhabited houses.

The district's adjusted birth-rate at 15.3 is rather lower than that for Middlesex or England and Wales as a whole. The Infantile Mortality rate of 10.2 shows a marked reduction from the rates for 1959 and 1960 although as I have pointed out in earlier reports it is rather misleading to attach undue importance to this rate as the actual number of deaths involved is quite small. In 1961 the number of deaths, details of which are shown on Page 7, was considerably lower than the figures for 1960 and 1959 but once more the main single causes of deaths were cancer and heart disease which together comprise about 60% of the total deaths. The number of deaths from bronchitis (12) was the highest yet recorded in any one year and I think there is little doubt that there is a very definite link between this condition and atmospheric pollution. I am happy to note, at the time of writing this report, that the Council proposes to give fresh consideration to implementing those parts of the Clean Air Act which provide for the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

During 1961 measles showed the usual cyclical increase but otherwise notifications of infectious disease were few in number. Two cases of poliomyelitis, both paralytic, occurred. It is pleasing to note the absence of food poisoning amongst the notified diseases. This happy position is probably due, to

some degree, to the supervision of food supplies and food premises by the Public Health Inspectors.

It is with pleasure that I record my thanks to all members of the Public Health staff for their cheerful co-operation at all times, and especially to Mr. Rooley for his able discharge of multifarious duties, and also to Mr. Rixson and Mr. Deamer for their efficient and willing help.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M.I. OUTRAM

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area	6,129 acres
Population (mid 1961 - Registrar General's Estimate)	23,080
Number of inhabited house (31st December, 1961)	7,500
Rateable Value (31st March, 1961)	£405,349
Product of a penny rate (31st March, 1961) ..	£1,641.19.1

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	392
Live birth-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population ..	17.0
Live birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population ..	15.3
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	17.4
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population for Middlesex (adjusted)	16.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	1.3
Still-births	4
Still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ..	10.1
Total live and still-births	396

Infant Mortality

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	10.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales	21.4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for Middlesex	20.4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	10.4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	NIL
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	7.7
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	15.5
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for Middlesex	15.6
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first week)	7.7
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	17.7

Maternal Mortality

Maternal deaths (including abortion)	..	..	..	..	NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births					NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births for England and Wales	..	..	..	..	0.34
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births for Middlesex	..	..	..	..	0.38

Deaths

Death-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population	..	..	7.2
Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population	..	..	9.9
Death-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	..		12.0
Death-rate per 1,000 population for Middlesex (adjusted)			11.6

BIRTHS

1961	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	205	182	387	2	2	4
Illegitimate	3	2	5	-	-	-
TOTALS	208	184	392	2	2	4

<u>DEATHS - Causes</u>							<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System	0	0	0						
Tuberculosis - other forms	1	0	1						
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0						
Measles	0	0	0						
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	1	1						
Cancer - all forms and other malignant neoplasms	20	16	36						
Leukaemia	0	1	1						
Diabetes	0	0	0						
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	6	11	17						
Heart Diseases	27	34	61						
Other Circulatory disease	4	5	9						
Influenza	0	1	1						
Pneumonia	3	5	8						
Bronchitis	7	5	12						
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1	2						
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0	0						
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	0	0	0						
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	1	1						
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	0	2						
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2						
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0						
Other Accidents	0	3	3						
Suicide	0	0	0						
Other causes	3	6	9						
Totals	75	91	166						

Note. No deaths occurred from Acute Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Meningococcal Infections, Pregnancy, Child-birth or Abortion.

The following tables show details of statistics for the years since 1941.

1. POPULATION, RATEABLE VALUE, etc.

Year	Number of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value at 31st March	Population (mid-year)
		£	
1921 (Census)	-	-	3135
1931 (Census)	-	-	5720
1941	4429	150,369	14850
1942	4429	153,210	14660
1943	4431	152,572	14290
1944	4432	152,896	14190
1945	4432	153,286	14270
1946	4554	152,792	15350
1947	4724	157,834	16120
1948	4837	162,743	16340
1949	5006	163,376	16540
1950	5028	168,364	16660
1951	5074	169,444	16800 (Estimate) 17163 (Census)
1952	5149	171,671	16970
1953	5247	174,831	17210
1954	5286	180,300	17620
1955	5485	187,121	17790
1956	5700	193,264	18910
1957	6400	332,572	20370
1958	6970	346,170	22000
1959	7219	366,460	22750
1960	7300	389,254	23140
1961	7500	405,349	23080 (Estimate) 23360 (Census)

2. DEATH RATE, BIRTH RATE, etc. (Unadjusted)

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1941	+	+	+
1942	9.9	17.1	23.9
1943	9.7	17.4	16.1
1944	8.9	20.6	30.8
1945	10.4	15.4	36.4
1946	8.7	18.4	14.1
1947	8.9	19.0	32.6
1948	7.8	17.7	6.9
1949	7.8	15.3	15.9
1950	8.4	15.2	19.8
1951	9.8	14.6	24.5
1952	8.9	13.8	21.3
1953	8.3	14.2	16.4
1954	7.4	14.0	12.1
1955	8.0	13.6	8.3
1956	9.2	15.7	27.0
1957	8.5	15.5	15.8
1958	7.7	18.1	10.1
1959	8.8	16.0	19.3
1960	8.1	17.1	20.2
1961	7.2	17.0	10.2

+ Figures not available.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Council's Public Health & Housing Committee deals with all matters relating to Public Health including Slum Clearance, Improvement Grants, etc.. Certain other functions of the department, however, are specifically referred to other Committees, e.g. work covered by the Shops Act and Petroleum Acts is dealt with by the General Purposes Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

M.I. OUTRAM, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector & Housing Manager:
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts & Shops Act:

* J.H. ROOLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

* R.W. RIXSON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

L.A. DEAMER, M.R.S.H.
(appointed 1st July, 1961)

Rodent Operator:

J.D. SMITH

* In addition to the basic qualification these officers hold the under-mentioned diplomas of the Royal Society of Health:-

- (a) Diploma for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods
- (b) Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The laboratory work of the Council was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, N.W.9. This laboratory is directed by

the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

The specimens submitted by the Public Health Department were:-

Ice-Cream Samples 80

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Middlesex County Council and vehicles are kept at various stations throughout the County. At the present time no vehicles operate from the Fire and Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There is a domiciliary service of midwifery and general nursing in operation in the district provided by the Area Health Committee.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are two clinics - one at The Elms, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the Area Health Committee, and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare and dental services.

HOSPITALS

There are two hospitals within the district - Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, and the Clare Hall Hospital at South Mimms. They are controlled by the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee.

Cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppett's Wood Hospital.

The Chest Clinic for the Potters Bar area is held at Clare Hall.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company and all houses have a mains supply. During the year 378 samples representative of supply were taken for bacteriological

examination, and 8 samples for chemical analysis.

All the bacteriological samples were found to be free from Type I B. Coli in 100 m.l.

The water supply is not plumbo-solvent.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

On the sewerage system and sewage disposal the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:-

"Work continued on the maintenance and repair of the Council's older soil sewers, entailing the relaying of short sections and the rebuilding of a number of man-holes.

Investigation of the problem of the infiltration of surface water into the soil sewers continues. Such investigation confirms the view that this question is not easy of solution and the efforts which the Council are making are likely to be of long duration, and costly. When infiltration is discovered, either by defects or wrong connection, every effort is made to have them rectified and such work will continue with all the speed possible with the staff and labour available.

The improvements and repairs, coupled with routine inspections and maintenance, have ensured that the soil and surface water systems have presented the minimum of problems during the past year."

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports:-

"Refuse collection and disposal has worked smoothly and well during the year, and the Contractors, Messrs. D. Heath & Sons Ltd. have continued to give a high standard of service and co-operation.

Refuse disposal has continued under the facilities available at Messrs. Inns & Company's tip at Smallford."

SWIMMING POOL

The only swimming pool in the district is attached to restaurant premises at South Mimms, and is privately owned.

The pool has not been in use for several years and, in September, 1956, the entire premises were vacated and closed down.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act have been forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Extracts from the report are:-

(a) Inspections

114 inspections were made in respect of the 81 factories and 9 other premises subject to the provision of the Act. In 5 premises contraventions of the provisions of the Factories Act were observed and there were 6 premises in which defects were remedied.

Below is a summary of improvements effected:-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Sanitary conveniences improved/repaired/cleansed (Section 7)	4
Ventilated lobbies to sanitary conveniences provided	4

(b) Outworkers

Employers' lists submitted showed that there were 37 premises where homework was carried on. 47 inspections and other visits were made.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

During 1961 no action was necessary under the provisions of this Section.

Section D - Housing

(See page 19 of the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report).

Section E - Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 22 of the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report).

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than tuberculosis during the year, 1961, were:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Whooping Cough	3	-	-
Measles	440	-	-
Pneumonia			
Acute Primary	6	5	-
Acute Influenzal	2	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Paralytic	2	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-
TOTALS	457	7	-

The following figures show notifications of certain infectious diseases since 1941:-

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
1941	23	4	0	271	137
1942	53	4	3	194	132
1943	35	0	0	280	51
1944	10	0	0	23	76
1945	14	0	0	287	22
1946	36	1	8	104	44
1947	11	0	3	51	58
1948	17	0	1	108	57
1949	11	0	1	278	43
1950	44	0	8	306	144
1951	15	0	3	179	67
1952	17	0	1	164	21
1953	22	0	1	381	142
1954	23	0	0	8	35
1955	4	0	1	537	9
1956	2	0	1	30	25
1957	6	0	0	301	16
1958	11	0	1	20	6
1959	5	0	1	698	9
1960	1	0	1	16	77
1961	0	0	2	440	3

IMMUNISATION

This service is carried out by the Area Medical Officer and he has kindly supplied the following figures relating to Potters Bar children.

	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Whooping Cough
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation *	460	456	370
Number of children who received reinforcing injections	466	279	146

* Most of these children were protected against all three diseases at the same time using 'triple' antigen. In fact, 366 children were protected in this way during 1961.

During a recent survey of children in the Area it was found that in Potters Bar during 1961, 95.9% of these children had been immunised against diphtheria and 88.0% had been vaccinated against smallpox before reaching their second birthday.

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS

DISEASES - 1961

Diseases	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65	Total 1961	Total 1960
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	-	-	3	77
Measles	345	92	3	-	-	440	16
Pneumonia							
Acute Primary	1	-	-	2	3	6	4
Acute Influenzal	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Acute Poliomyelitis							
Paralytic	-	1	1	-	-	2	1
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	3	-	-	3	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTALS	349	93	8	3	4	457	124

TUBERCULOSIS - 1961

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals 1961	4	6	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals 1960	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The numbers of persons on the tuberculosis register at the commencement and end of the year are shown in the following table, as the foregoing gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

1961	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	80	54	134	3	5	8	142
Total on register at end of year	62	47	109	1	4	5	114

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report for the year 1961.

As this is the 20th Annual Report I have prepared and submitted to the Potters Bar Council, it seems an appropriate opportunity to look back 20 years and compare the general situation then with that of today.

In 1942 - under war-time conditions - statistical records were scanty - but the first to note is that the population (13090) was then little more than half the present figure. Several houses in the district were without mains water supply and more were without drainage. Infectious disease figures were very different in 1942 - for example there were during that year 38 new cases of tuberculosis notified compared with an average of 9 cases per year during the last 5 years. There were 6 deaths from tuberculosis compared with an average of between 1 and 2 per year since 1957. Four cases of diphtheria and 53 of scarlet fever occurred and the improvement in connection with these two diseases can be seen from the table on Page 14.

These are, of course, matters of personal health but the incidence of infectious diseases is often accepted to be indicative of the state of environmental hygiene in a district. In general, I think the progress made in this period can be regarded as considerable and satisfactory.

To return to the present - 1961 was a year when steady progress was made in all sections of the department. The appointment of Mr. Deamer as Additional Public Health Inspector enabled the department to keep pace with the development of the district and allowed more time to be devoted to those routine matters which have received rather less than the desirable amount of attention in recent years.

There was some increase in the interest shown in Improvement Grants and details of these are given elsewhere. In this connection, however, the Council decided to consider carrying out Improvement Schemes to pre-war Council houses and detailed inspections were made of 98 houses in Cranborne and appropriate schemes prepared.

The second survey of unfit property was also completed and the results forwarded to the Ministry.

Instruments for the measurement of atmospheric pollution in the district were set up at Wylllyotts Manor and Mount Grace School but as official readings did not commence until the end of the year it is too early to assess results.

The Public Health Act, 1961 and the Housing Act, 1961, came into force towards the end of 1961. The provisions of the Housing Act, 1961, contain minor amendments to procedure relating to Improvement Grants and these should make the scheme more attractive to landlords.

I have already referred to Mr. Deamer's appointment as Additional Public Health Inspector and he is carrying out his new duties in a most satisfactory manner. I would also record that all members of the department have given excellent service throughout the year and have worked well - sometimes under difficult circumstances.

Your obedient servant,

J.H. ROOLEY,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Work in connection with the Council's slum clearance programme proceeded during 1961. Seven dwellings were inspected and found unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost. During the year 12 more houses were demolished and 3 were closed. Seven families with a total of 19 persons were re-housed by the Council from unfit property.

The table below shows the progress made with slum clearance since the programme started in 1955:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	TOTAL
Houses represented to Council - Formally or Informally	16	17	14*	8	8	8	7	78
Unfit Houses actually demolished or closed								
(a) After Formal or Informal action	12	15	6	10	10	6	11	70
(b) Voluntarily by Owners	2	1	3	6	2	-	4	18

* One dwelling house represented as unfit and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost was subsequently the subject of appeal, and by agreement with the owner, the house was eventually made fit.

The original official five-year slum clearance programme ended on the 31st December, 1960.

A second survey, carried out at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, was completed at the end of August, 1961. This survey revealed that on this date there was an estimated number of 39 houses remaining unfit, but before the end of the year 5 of these had been demolished.

Repair

In addition to procedure under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, 20 primary inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936, or Housing Act, 1957, were carried out mainly as a result

of complaints received. These figures do not include those houses dealt with for choked drainage only and which numbered 68, being the houses affected by 24 blockages.

During the year the defects at 21 houses were remedied after informal action and at 2 properties the defects were remedied as a result of formal action under the Public Health Act, 1936.

A summary of repairs carried out at dwelling houses is shown below:-

<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Number of Houses</u>
Drains relaid, repaired or improved	16
Drains unstopped (24 blockages)	68
Eavesgutters and downpipes repaired, renewed or unstopped	4
Soil and waste pipes repaired/renewed	1
<u>Water Supply</u>	
Draw-off taps connected direct to rising main	1
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>	
Flushing cisterns and/or flushpipes repaired or renewed	1
Earth closets renewed	1
<u>Miscellaneous Repairs</u>	
Roofs repaired or renewed	3
Damp-proof courses provided	1
Underfloor ventilation provided or improved	1
Windows repaired or renewed	1
Floors repaired or renewed	3
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed	4
Sundry repairs and improvements	2
Dustbins provided	1
Ventilated food cupboard provided	1
Yard surface repaired	1
<u>Improvement Grants</u>	

A number of enquiries regarding Improvement Grants were received but only five owners proceeded with formal applications - three for Discretionary Grants and two for Standard Grants. These

were all approved. Details are given below:-

Discretionary Grants

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Nature of Improvements</u>	<u>Cost & Amount of Grant</u>
78, Blanche Lane.	Provision of bathroom incorporating water-closet, bath and lavatory basin; provision of a domestic hot water supply, food store and fuel store, a drinking water tap direct from the rising main, and new drainage works.	£533.15.0d. (£266.17.6d.)
26, Blanche Lane.	Provision of a bathroom addition incorporating bath, wash basin and separate water-closet, domestic hot water supply and new drainage work.	£367. 0.0d. (£183.10.0d.)
190, Mutton Lane.	Construction of a bathroom incorporating a bath, lavatory basin and internal water-closet, and new drainage work in connection with the bathroom.	£410. 0.0d. (£205. 0.0d.)

Standard Grants

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Nature of Improvement</u>	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
13, Cotton Road.	Provision of a bath, wash basin and domestic hot water supply.	£95.6.0d.
10, Auckland Road	Provision of a wash basin.	£5.0.0d.

The works of improvement and repair at 78, Blanche Lane and 13, Cotton Road were completed during the year.

Certificates of Disrepair

The number of enquiries concerning Rent Control and procedure under the Rent Act, 1957, was less than in previous years. No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Housing Management

During 1961, 66 new properties were completed. These included 18 flats and 8 shops with flats over and formed Stage VI of the Oakmere Estate. Redevelopment of the Gregory Avenue area continued and a large proportion of the properties on this Estate are Aged Persons' Flats or Bungalows. When this estate is complete the Council will have a total of 160 such properties.

During the year 139 lettings were made and 72 of these were to applicants from the waiting list. 67 transfers were effected and 7 families were rehoused from properties to be demolished under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

The waiting list was revised during the year and the opportunity was taken to invite applicants to supply details of their income. Only three applicants failed to co-operate and the information obtained revealed that the majority of applicants had an income of less than £20 per week. Only two of 163 applicants received more than this amount. At the end of 1961 there were 233 persons on the General waiting list and 88 on the Aged Persons' and Single Persons' lists.

A comprehensive survey of pre-war Council houses was commenced with a view to carrying out Improvement Schemes and an area of 98 houses on the Cranborne Estate was selected as the first to be dealt with. A programme of rewiring and improvement of electrical installations at pre-war houses was also prepared and work on the first 100 houses is to be carried out next year.

Sherwood Avenue Hostel continued to be used for families faced with eviction but at the end of the year the property was vacated and demolished under the terms of the lease with the owner.

A survey of the Oakmere Estate was carried out to ascertain the need for additional garages and plans are in progress for the provision of about 20 extra lock-up garages.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine work in connection with the inspection of food establishments and vehicles and in the general supervision of the food supplies, was carried out during the year.

386 inspections and other visits were made to the various food premises, vehicles, etc., in which food was prepared, stored or sold. 23 informal notices under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955,

and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/1960, were served during 1961, and 27 informal notices were complied with during the year.

The tables that follow show at the 31st December, 1961, the principal food trades in the district, and the number registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Catering Establishments:-

(a) Restaurants, Cafes, etc., ...	23	44
(b) School Meals Centres.	12	
(c) Works Canteens.	4	
(d) Hospital and Institution Kitchens.	5	
Bakehouses	2	
Butchers	15	
Fishmongers	5	
Grocers	30	
Greengrocers	12	
Milk Distributing Depots	3	
Bakers and Confectioners	5	
Public Houses	13	
Sweet Shops	18	

Ice-cream:-

Manufacturers and Vendors (Registered)	1
Vendors only (Registered)	42

Number of food premises, by type, registered under
Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Storage, sale or manufacture of ice-cream	43
Manufacture of sausages	11
Boiling of hams	8
Cooking of poultry	3
Frying of fish	2
	<u>67</u>

Below is a classification of the visits paid to food establishments and vehicles:-

<u>Type of premises</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Cafes, licensed premises, etc., ...	108
Bakehouses	16
Butchers' shops	66
Ice-cream manufacturers	8
Milk Depots	4
Other food premises	166
Milk and other food delivery vehicles, hawkers, etc.	18
	<u>386</u>

A record of improvements effected at the various food establishments as a result of these visits is shown below:-

<u>Food Hyg.</u>	<u>Reg.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Premises</u>
6	Cleansing of articles and equipment carried out	1
6	Articles and equipment repaired, renewed or improved	2
6	Risk of contamination to articles and/or equipment removed	3
14	Sanitary conveniences repaired	1
14	"Wash hands" notices affixed near sanitary conveniences	2
16	Wash-hand basins provided	1
16	Hot water supplies provided in connection with wash basins	1
16	Soap and nail brushes provided	1
17	First aid materials provided	1
18	Accommodation for clothing provided	1
23	Windows repaired/renewed	2
23	Floors repaired or renewed	6
23	Walls and ceilings renewed or repaired	9
23	Food rooms cleansed	7
23	Food rooms disinfested against insects, etc.	1
28	Hot water supplies provided to vehicles or stalls	1

Miscellaneous

Dustbins provided	1
Other improvements	1

Ice-Cream Regulations

Use of recording thermometer in ice cream manufacture re-employed	1
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Certificates of Exemption

One Certificate of Exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/60 was issued during the year.

Ice-Cream

At the end of the year there was one premises in which ice-cream was manufactured on a small scale; the "heat treated" process was employed.

Three new applications for registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream were received and approved, and at the end of the year there were 43 premises registered.

During 1961, 80 samples of ice-cream were obtained and submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory for testing, and I give below a summary of the results:-

All Manufacturers:

Satisfactory	(Grade 1	...	...	77 or 96%)	99%
	(Grade 2	...	...	2 or 3%)	
Unsatisfactory	(Grade 3	...	...	1 or 1%)	1%
	(Grade 4	...	...	0 NIL)	
80					

Local Manufacturer only:

Satisfactory	(Grade 1	...	...	6 or 86%)	86%
	(Grade 2	...	...	0 NIL)	
Unsatisfactory	(Grade 3	...	...	1 or 14%)	14%
	(Grade 4	...	...	0 NIL)	

Comparative figures for last 5 years

All Manufacturers:

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Satisfactory (Grades 1 & 2)	94%	99%	97%	97.5%	99%
Unsatisfactory (Grades 3 & 4)	6%	1%	3%	2.5%	1%

Local Manufacturers only:

Satisfactory (Grades 1 & 2)	87.5%	96%	95%	100%	86%
Unsatisfactory (Grades 3 & 4)	12.5%	4%	5%	NIL	14%
Total samples taken	80	97	99	86	80

Notes

During 1961 only one local tradesman manufactured ice-cream, and this was on a very small scale. In the course of the year 7 samples were obtained from this source, one of which proved unsatisfactory (Grade III). In the course of investigating this

low-grade sample minor contraventions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, were discovered and later remedied. A subsequent sample proved satisfactory. The effect of this one Grade 3 sample in a total of only 7 has made the percentage results of locally manufactured ice-cream appear rather exaggerated.

In the last few years an increase in the number of itinerant ice-cream vendors operating in the district has been experienced, and much time was spent in 1961 checking on this type of vendor. In the course of this work 4 samples were obtained from 3 different vendors and all were found to be Grade I.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Milk Supply

From the 1st January, 1961, the Middlesex County Council became the licensing authority for the issue of licences under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960. Details of licences issued and samples tested will be found in the report of the Public Control Department of the County Council on pages 27/29.

Inspection of Food

The table following shows the food which was examined and found unfit for human consumption and subsequently surrendered and destroyed:-

Unsound Food - 1961

Home Killed Beef	..	..	..	..	6 lbs.	8 ozs.
Frozen Beef	..	..	..	..	3 lbs.	
Tinned Fruit	..	..	..	..	73 lbs.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	..	50 lbs.	14 ozs.
Tinned Vegetables	..	..	..	..	35 lbs.	2 ozs.
Tinned Fish	..	..	..	..	1 lb.	3 ozs.
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	8 lbs.	
Prawns	..	..	..	..	6 lbs.	
Sheeps Kidneys	..	..	..	..	5 doz.	

All condemned food is disposed of either by burning in the furnace of Clare Hall Hospital, or rendered unusable and disposed of at the Refuse Tip at Cole Green, Hatfield.

Slaughterhouses

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the district.

Food and Drugs Act (Adulteration etc.,)

These duties are carried out by the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council, and Mr. O'Keefe, Chief Officer of that department, has kindly supplied the following information which shows the work carried out in Potters Bar during 1961:-

(a) Sampling

Articles	Total Samples Taken	Unsatisfactory Samples
Drugs	5	-
Milk	20	1
Flour Confectionery	5	-
Butter	5	-
Cheese	6	-
Cream	4	-
Liver	3	-
Fruit	17	-
Fish	3	-
Margarine	3	-
Meat	13	-
Sausages	5	1
Sauces	2	-
Soft drinks	1	-
Vinegar	2	-
Miscellaneous	11	-
TOTALS	105	2

Notes:

Milk A pint bottle of milk delivered to a resident in your area was found by her to contain a piece of glass. The bottle and its contents was collected by an officer of your Public Health Department and handed over to my local office at Tottenham. The seller of the milk was interviewed and the processing plant examined. The glass was found to be part of a broken milk bottle. The seller was sent a letter of caution.

Sausages A resident of Potters Bar purchased from a retailer some chipolata sausages and she subsequently found in the sausages a metal clip. The sausages were manufactured in London and enquiries of the manufacturer established that the clip was of a type used in Smithfield Market for attaching labels to carcasses of meat. The carcass appears later to have been used in sausage manufacture, the clip having been embedded in the meat and not detected in the course of manufacture. A letter of caution was sent to the sausage manufacturer.

(b) Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 - 1953

Inspections were carried out under the above Acts to ensure that the requirements of the various Marking Orders relating to the indication of origin of imported foodstuffs are applied. Inspections were made at 34 premises and a total of 118 displays were examined. Minor breaches of the Orders were dealt with by verbal warning. No infringements were disclosed.

(c) The Labelling of Food Order, 1953

The Labelling of Food Order requires prepacked food to be marked with the name and address of the packer or labeller or to bear a registered trade mark; to be marked with its common or usual name and to bear a statement of ingredients if the food consists of more than one ingredient. It also controls the manner in which the presence of vitamins and minerals is disclosed.

In the Urban District of Potters Bar a total of 127 articles were examined at 22 premises. No infringements were disclosed.

(d) Labelling & Advertising Infringements

In addition to the detail given above, a considerable volume of work was done in the period under review, which did not arise from samples procured in the Urban District of Potters Bar, but which had the effect of protecting the residents in each county district. The matters dealt with were in respect of nationally retailed articles of food.

Several manufacturers were required to designate the ingredients on labels of Instant Coffee. As a result of a complaint of the taste of a soft drink, investigations made in my Department showed that there was phenolic contamination which arose from a chemical reaction between chlorinated water and the phenol formaldehyde stopper. The manufacturer has modified the ingredients of this product to prevent the chemical reaction.

The manufacturer of a non-alcoholic wine was challenged on the ground that the description was a contradiction in terms, and the label was amended to "non-alcoholic beverage".

The importer of a slimming food was challenged on claims made in advertising literature as to the Vitamin concentration, and the literature was corrected.

A manufacturer's claim of slimming properties for "reducing perles" was challenged and the product withdrawn. The claim relied on the presence of purgatives and bladderwrack.

The slimming claims made for a lemon juice in a television advertisement were modified after the manufacturer had been challenged as to the efficiency of the product as a slimming agent.

Modifications to the labels of several brands of canned chicken were secured, where it was not apparent from the label that the contents of the cans were not solely chicken, but chicken in jelly or broth.

(e) Safe Milk

From the 1st January, 1961, the County Council became the licensing authority for the issue of licences to dealers with premises within its area and 5 licences were issued in respect of the sale of milk to which the special designations "pasteurised", "sterilised" and "tuberculin tested" could be applied. The period for which these licences were granted has been extended from one year to five years. Four samples of milk were obtained to test that heat treatment and subsequent storage were properly carried out. All were satisfactory. Eight inspections were carried out at retail premises to ensure proper compliance with the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

Eleven samples of raw milk were procured in your area to test for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All were satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL, 1961

In the year under review 194 notifications of rats and/or mice were received and investigated compared with 126 during 1960. The number of primary surveys carried out as a routine measure or associated with notifications was 389 compared with 304 in 1960 and the number of treatments was more than last year (175 compared with 123 last year).

As in previous years the methods of eradication employed were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The types of infestation encountered followed the usual pattern - gardens, yards and outbuildings attached to dwelling houses predominating.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the department during 1961:-

Number of primary surveys carried out

by (a) notification	..	..	..	..	..	194	
(b) otherwise	..	..	..	..	..	195	389

Total number of visits made in connection with Rodent Control

(a) by Public Health Inspector	..	..	117	
(b) by Rodent Operator	..	..	1009	1126

Number of separate treatments carried out

					<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) by Local Authority	..	..			152	11	163
(b) by Occupiers	..	..	..	..	10	2	12
					162	13	175

Number of cases where no infestation was found .. 214

The details that follow show the types of infestation dealt with:-

						<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	..	..	-	7	7
Gardens and Yards (including outbuildings)	..				..	125	-	125
Sewers and drains	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Agricultural Property	..	..	..	..	..	4	-	4
Schools (including Meals Centres)	..	..			..	1	2	3
Shop Premises	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Building Sites	..	..	..	..	..	5	-	5
Other Premises	..	..	..	..	..	25	3	28
						162	13	175

Details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:-

Number of informal notices served in respect of

(a)	treatments	..	..	..	..	..	48)	67
(b)	structural work (proofing)	..	..	..	..	..	19)	

Number of statutory notices served .. -

Legal proceedings instituted -

Premises rat-proofed 19

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The disinfection of premises and/or articles was carried out in connection with the following diseases:-

Cancer (Potters Bar Hospital) 1

Poliomyelitis and Suspected Poliomyelitis 2

The work carried out by the department in connection with the eradication of insect pests, other than wasps, was confined almost entirely to advisory measures.

It was another notable year for the number of wasps' nests infesting premises and land. 124 premises were treated by the department and advice was offered in many other cases.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Urban District has no industrial smoke problem, and only infrequently is it found necessary to take action in regard to a smoke nuisance. The area is not within a "black area".

Clean Air Act, 1956

(a) Smoke Control Areas

No further consideration was given during the year to the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

(b) Building Byelaw re heating and cooking appliances

A new building byelaw made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act was adopted by the Council in 1957. This Byelaw is designed to ensure that domestic appliances installed in new buildings are capable of burning smokeless fuels or are otherwise capable of smokeless operation.

(c) New Furnaces (Section 3)

All applications under Section 3 (2) for the prior approval of new furnaces are dealt with jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no applications were received.

No notifications under Section 3 (3) regarding the installation of new furnaces were received.

(d) Height of Chimneys (Section 10)

Plans of new buildings (other than dwellings, shops and offices) which indicate the proposed erection of a chimney, are examined jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself. In the course of the year one such plan showed a chimney of insufficient height and was, therefore, rejected.

(e) General

In one case a temporary smoke nuisance from a vertical steam-raising boiler used by a road building contractor was abated after informal action.

(f) National Survey of Air Pollution

At the request of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research the Council agreed to take part in a national survey of atmospheric pollution, and for this purpose arranged to set up 2 air pollution measurement stations. These were established at Wyllyotts Manor and, in collaboration with the Education Office, at Mount Grace School.

At each of these sites apparatus is installed to measure the concentration of smoke and sulphur-dioxide in the atmosphere. Readings are taken daily and are sent for analysis to the Warren Spring Laboratory at Stevenage at the end of every 4 or 5-week period. Readings taken throughout the country are subsequently tabulated etc., and published monthly by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

DRAINAGE

During the year 25 choked drainage systems involving 69 premises were dealt with by the department, and at 23 premises the drainage systems were repaired, reconstructed or enlarged.

MISCELLANEOUS

Caravans

At the close of 1960 there were 4 outstanding applications for site licences under the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960. Planning consent was subsequently given and licences, to which conditions were attached, were issued early in 1961.

During the year one further application was received, planning consent for 6 months was granted, and a licence was issued.

Details of the licensed sites in occupation at the 31st December, 1961, are shown below:-

<u>Site</u>	<u>No. of caravans authorised</u>	<u>Date licence and planning consent expire</u>
Nursery Farm, St. Albans Road.	2	30.11.1962.
Greyhound Lane Farm, South Mimms.	1	No limitation.
Chace Cottage Farm, Dove Lane.	1	31.3.1966
Rear of Green Gragon Barn, St. Albans Road.	1	15.2.1966.
Cedar Farm, South Mimms.	1	31.1.1962.

In addition to the above licensed sites there were in use several sites occupied by employees engaged on the construction of the new South Mimms By-pass and which were exempted from the licensing provisions of the Act. In one case very unsatisfactory conditions existed and it became necessary to approach the Contractor for some improvement. This resulted in the removal of the caravans to a better site equipped with satisfactory sanitary facilities, etc.. Other similar sites were regularly visited and found to be quite well managed.

A continuing problem is that of the gypsy type caravanner. From experience it would appear that very few of this class of caravan dweller are true romany gypsies. The majority of them seem to be itinerant traders or dealers in rags or scrap metal. These are the real problem caravan dwellers many of whom occupy

roadside verges or other unlicensed pieces of waste land or farm land on which they live, sort their wares and carry on business without much regard for elementary hygiene. This land, when vacated, is often found to be contaminated with human and animal excrement, sullage water, and rubbish of all kinds including domestic refuse, unwanted rags and scrap metal. Most of them possess lorries or other forms of transport and some have expensive cars which are accommodated on the site. The possession of these vehicles has been given as a reason for their not being allowed to occupy a properly controlled licensed site. Where these caravan dwellers were found on Council owned land they were requested to move. In other cases the farmers on whose land they were resting were reminded of the provisions of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, and were discouraged from allowing their land to be occupied. These measures, however, whilst controlling the problem to some extent locally, are not a solution from a national point of view.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One factory in which the manufacture of soft furnishings is carried on is registered under the above Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two applications for licences to keep pet shops were received during the year, and at each shop conditions were found to be satisfactory and licences were issued.

Street Trading

Although several enquiries were made during the year, no formal applications under the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944, were received.

General

The administration of various other Acts of Parliament is carried out by the Public Health Department and these include:-

Shops Act, 1950.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act,
1956.

Petroleum Acts and Regulations.

Inspection duties under the Shops Act are usually combined

with those under other headings carried out at shop premises, but many enquiries are dealt with, usually in connection with hours of closing, Sunday trading, etc..

The Council's various functions under the Acts and Regulations dealing with the storage of Petroleum Spirit and other substances subject to licence, are administered by the Public Health & Housing Department and the Senior and Deputy Senior Public Health Inspectors are the authorised officers under the Acts.

During 1961 only one new licence was approved and as the installation was of a temporary nature the usual licence conditions were somewhat relaxed to meet the circumstances.

At the end of the year 26 licences were in force and these permitted a total storage capacity of 95,850 gallons.

One of the conditions attached to licences relates to the testing of storage tanks at certain intervals and during 1961 six tanks were tested prior to the renewal of licences at two premises.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Visits and Inspections made during the Year

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts ..	986
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	380
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act ..	412
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act	161
Visits and inspections under the Petroleum Acts and Regulations ..	110
Shops Act visits and inspections	25
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	9
Visits and inspections under the Rent Act	7
Visits and inspections re Rodent Control	
(by Public Health Inspector)	117
(by Rodent Operator)	1009
Administrative visits	150
Rehousing visits, etc., ...	32
Visits under Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960 ..	112
Visits under Rag Flock Act	1
Visits under Clean Air Act	14
Miscellaneous visits	108
Total visits and inspections ..	<u>3633</u>

Details of Formal and Informal Action

Number of premises etc., in respect of which verbal notices were given	58
Number of premises etc., where improvements were effected following verbal notices	61
Number of premises etc., in respect of which written Informal Notices were served	16
Number of premises etc., where improvements were effected following service of written Informal Notices	14

Statutory Notices served:-

Housing Act, 1957

Requisition for Information (Section 170)	5
Time and Place for considering unfit house (Section 16)	8
Notice to quit house subject to Demolition Order (Section 22)	1
Closing Orders (Section 17)	2
Demolition Orders (Section 17)	4

Public Health Act, 1936

Execution of Works of Drainage (Section 39)	2	22
Statutory notices requiring execution of works complied with	13	

Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.



